

## **ASSISTANCE OF COURT STAFF**

Court staff can provide information or resources that can be helpful in the handling of your case. However, court staff cannot provide legal advice, which limits the type of information that can be given. The following are guidelines established that the court staff must follow. Your understanding of what information can be provided will assist you in effectively talking with court staff.

### **Court Staff May:**

- Encourage self-represented parties to be informed about their legal rights to consult with an attorney for legal advice.
- Encourage self-represented parties to consult with an attorney for legal advice.
- Provide court-approved forms and written instructions.
- Provide docketed case information.
- Provide resource material.

### **Court Staff May Not Do Any Of The Following:**

- Provide legal advice, including but not limited to:
  1. recommending a specific course of action;
  2. performing legal research for parties;
  3. interpreting how the law would apply to a specific situation;
  4. predicting the outcome of a particular strategy or action; and
  5. computing deadlines specified by statute or court rules.
- Recommend any specific course of action, including but not limited to:
  1. whether to file a pleading;
  2. the specific content or phrasing for a pleading;
  3. the types of claims or arguments to assert in pleadings or objections to pleadings; and
  4. whether to appeal.
- Assist in completing any forms or advise on how a particular term or definition applies to a specific situation.
- Interpret statutes or rules or advise whether a particular statute or rule applies in a specific situation.
- Provide information kept confidential by statute or court rule.
- Recommend or advise concerning rules of evidence, witnesses, objections, or rulings.